
Introduction

Occasionally it should be an Editor's prerogative to take special pleasure in a single issue of his journalistic efforts. This Editor takes that prerogative with this issue of *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* because of the specific authors involved.

I am particularly pleased to have Dr. Gus Mavroudis of Chicago and Dr. Ralph Mosca of New York contribute to this issue, both of whom were invited because of their superb contributions in the past. I am also delighted to have several of my previous residents from our training program at Washington University in St. Louis as authors. Dr. Chuck Huddleston joined our faculty at St. Louis Children's Hospital as a partner with Dr. Tom Spray in 1990 and over the next 2 to 3 years, Drs. Jim Tweddell, Jake Jaquiss, and Eric Men-

deloff completed their training under Drs. Spray and Huddleston. Dr. Tweddell subsequently joined Dr. Bert Litwin at the Children's Hospital in Madison and Dr. Jaquiss, after spending several years at the University of Miami, later joined Drs. Tweddell and Litwin. Dr. Mendeloff stayed on the faculty with Dr. Huddleston where they have been now for nearly 10 years.

My mentor, Dr. David C. Sabiston, said many times that his greatest pleasure was in the accomplishments of his students and I agree completely with that statement . . . thus, my special delight in this issue of the *Operative Techniques*.

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